

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning #19

LOCAL PLANS NOT APPROVED PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2004

The Rules for Hazard Mitigation Planning and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program states that communities must have all-hazard mitigation plans that have been approved by FEMA by November 1, 2004, to be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project funds. Communities that wish to be eligible for Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds must have an approved plan by November 1, 2003. These two requirements have confused some communities. Therefore, this guidance is designed to clear up some of that confusion.

While the rules require that communities applying for HMGP project funding after November 1, 2004, must first have an approved plan, it is unreasonable to assume that all communities will meet that deadline. To help deal with the problem of all communities not having approved plans, FEMA has encouraged States to prepare a prioritization list so that the first plans that are funded are for those communities that are at the most risk. At the same time, it is understood that some communities that are struck by a disaster will not have an adopted plan. In this case, the FEMA Director may grant a one-year extension to complete a plan while project funds are made available, if a community has a good reason for not having completed a plan. If a community receives the one-year extension, they must have an approved plan within the one year of receiving the grant, or they must return any unspent planning or project funds.

The November 1, 2003, deadline for PDM is for communities that wish to apply for FY 2004 PDM project funds. If the community does not meet the 2003 deadline, they have the option of completing the plan later and applying for project funds in subsequent years. For example, approval of a plan by November 1, 2004, would make the community eligible for FY 2005 funds, and so forth.